

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of listing of claims, and listing of claims in the application.*

#### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid ionic compound comprising a cation which is a complex of a neutral ligand selected from the group consisting of ~~organic-substituted and unsubstituted~~ alkyl amines and crown ethers with a metal ion selected from the group consisting of Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>3+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> and an anion which is a conjugate anion of the metal ion, wherein said anion comprises sulfur or phosphorous ~~said cation and said anion comprising a substantially new liquid.~~
  2. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which is a liquid below 100°C.
  3. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 2 which is a liquid at room temperature.
  4. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which is electrically conductive in the absence of a solvent.
  5. (Previously Presented) An ionic liquid according to claim 1 which is hydrophobic.
  6. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 wherein said neutral organic ligand is a crown ether.
  7. (Cancelled)
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8. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 wherein said conjugate anion is bis(trifluoromethane)sulfonimide, boron trifluoride, nitrate, sulfate, phosphate, hexafluorophosphate and dicyanamide.

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9. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a ~~substantially neat ionic liquid~~ ionic compound, the method comprising mixing a neutral ligand selected from the group consisting of organic ~~substituted and unsubstituted~~ alkyl amines and crown ethers with a metal ion selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Li}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ag}^+$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  and with the salt of a metal cation and its conjugate anion at room temperature.

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10. (Original) A method according to claim <sup>8</sup>9 wherein said neutral organic ligand is a crown ether.

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11. (Original) A method according to claim <sup>9</sup>10 wherein the metal cation is selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, lithium and calcium.

12. (Cancelled)

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13. (Original) A method according to claim <sup>8</sup>~~9~~12 wherein said metal cation is selected from the group consisting of silver, zinc, copper, cadmium, nickel, mercury and iron.

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14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said conjugate anion is bis(trifluoromethane)sulfonimide, boron trifluoride, nitrate, sulfate, phosphate, hexafluorophosphate and dicyanamide.

15.-20. (Cancelled)